

**TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE MARC ELRICH
ON EXPEDITED BILL 50-20 LANDLORD-TENANT RELATIONS – FIRE
SAFETY - REMOVAL OF MERCURY SERVICE REGULATORS.**

January 26, 2021

Good afternoon, Council President and Councilmembers, my name is Aseem Nigam, Director of the Department of Housing and Community Affairs. I am here on behalf of the County Executive in support of Bill 50-20 Fire Safety – Removal of Mercury Service Regulators.

This Bill establishes requirements for all rental property owners to identify the presence of indoor mercury service regulators of gas service on their property and to certify to DHCA that they have notified the gas service company and the tenants of the status of the equipment. This requirement will support acceleration of compliance with the Maryland Public Service Commission's (PSC) order regarding the replacement of the equipment in Montgomery County.

DHCA is reviewing and does not yet have an estimate on the timing for the required implementation of a searchable database for the reported information on all rental units, involving approximately 105,000 units. DHCA is also reviewing implementation options for enforcement of the requirements, involving compliance with the multiple notices required. Initial analysis indicates that the scope and timing of implementing these requirements will impact other DHCA obligations and initiatives, and we will work with the Bill sponsor to address this analysis.

DHCA supports the objectives of the Bill for expeditious removal of the indoor mercury service regulators, and will support analysis of options such as streamlining the notice requirements to achieve the desired outcome.

Thank you.